

## Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-04 NSC-05 INR-07 /042 W

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R 091221Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4637

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CHUSMTM DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

CINCEUR

S E C R E T JIDDA 3315

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, OVIP (RUMSFELD, DONALD H.)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO SAUDI ARABIA

1. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM CROWN PRINCE FAHD BIN ABD AL-AZIZ CONCERNING THE PROPOSED VISIT OF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RUMSFELD TO SAUDI ARABIA.

2. BEGIN TEXT. I RECEIVED YOUR EXCELLENCY'S LETTER WHICH REFERRED TO THE REVIEW WITH YOUR EXCELLENCY IN TAIF LAST SEPTEMBER CONCERNING MATTERS CONNECTED TO MILITARY SUPPLIES AND THE WISH OF HIS EXCELLENCY, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, MR. RUMSFELD, TO VISIT THE KINGDOM NEXT JULY TO COMPLETE DISCUSSION OF THESE MATTERS WITH HIS SAUDI COUNTERPART. IT IS OUR PLEASURE TO INVITE HIS EXCELLENCY TO THE CITY OF TAIF SUNDAY, JULY 26, 1976. WE HOPE THIS DATE WILL BE CONVENIENT. WITH BEST WISHES, FAHD BIN ABDUL AZIZ. END TEXT.

3. MINISTER OF DEFENSE PRINCE SULTAN ON MAY 5 GAVE TO CHUSMTM AN ADVANCE COPY OF FOLLOWING LETTER TO SECRETARY RUMSFELD. THE ORIGINAL IS STILL WENDING ITS WAY TO US THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

4. BEGIN TEXT. THE HONORABLE DONALD H. RUMSFELD, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. GREETINGS: THE FINE RELATIONS THAT TIE SAUDI ARABIA AND USA MOTIVATE ME TO INVITE YOU TO

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VISIT THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA IN ORDER TO FOLLOW-UP THE

DISCUSSIONS OF MATTERS WHICH WILL RESULT IN MUTUAL BENEFITS  
AND ADVANTAGES TO OUR COUNTRIES.  
IT IS MY PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOUR VISIT TO  
SAUDI ARABIA AS OF 26 JULY 1976, HOPING THAT YOUR BUSY  
SCHEDULE WILL ALLOW YOU TO ACCEPT THIS INVITATION AT THE  
DATE MENTIONED ABOVE AND THAT YOUR LENGTH OF STAY WILL ENABLE  
YOU TO SEE ALL ASPECTS OF PROGRESS IN THE KINGDOM OF  
SAUDI ARABIA.  
AWAITING YOUR REPLY, I THINK YOU AND WISH YOU  
CONTINUED GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS. /S/ SULTAN BIN ABDUL  
AZIZ. END TEXT.

5. IN GIVING THE LETTER TO CHUSMTM, PRINCE SULTAN  
SPECIFICALLY SUGGESTED THAT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE PLAN TO ARRIVE  
SAUDI ARABIA ON OR ABOUT JULY 20. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD  
BE OPENING THE SERVICE ATHLETIC GAMES AT KHAMIS MUSHAYT  
ON JULY 26 AND WOULD LIKE THE SECDEF TO ATTEND WITH HIM.  
(SAUDIS ARE PLANNING A SIGNIFICANT MILITARY  
DEMONSTRATION AT THAT TIME.) PRINCE SULTAN TOLD  
CHUSMTM THAT HE HOPED THAT SECDEF COULD VISIT FOR  
ABOUT FIVE - SEVEN DAYS SO THAT "HE CAN TRAVEL AROUND  
THE COUNTRY AND SEE THE EXTENT OF US - SAUDI  
COOPERATIVE EFFORTS IN MILITARY MODERNIZATION."

6. COMMENT. THE PRESENT FRAMEWORK FOR THE VISIT OF  
SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND COMMANDER OF THE NATIONAL  
GUARD PRINCE ABDALLAH TO THE US IS JULY 6 - 23. WE  
UNDERSTAND THIS MAY BE FURTHER REFINED AND POSSIBLY  
SHORTENED. WE DO NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT A  
RESPONSE TO PRINCE SULTAN SUGGESTING A FIRM ARRIVAL DATE FOR  
THE SECDEF TO THE KINGDOM SHOULD BE GIVEN UNTIL AFTER  
THE DATES OF PRINCE ABDALLAH'S VISIT HAVE BEEN DECIDED.  
PRINCE ABDALLAH MIGHT WELL BE OFFENDED IF HIS HOST, THE  
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, WERE TO DEPART THE US FOR SAUDI  
ARABIA WHILE HE WAS STILL IN THE US. THIS WOULD BE THE  
CASE EVEN IF THE WASHINGTON PORTION OF THE VISIT AND  
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE'S DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN IT HAD BEEN  
CONCLUDED SOME TIME PREVIOUSLY. WE SUGGEST THAT IT WOULD  
BE MOST APPROPRIATE IF THE SECDEF WERE TO PLAN HIS ARRIVAL  
IN SAUDI ARABIA NOT LESS THAN TWO DAYS AFTER THE DEPARTURE  
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OF PRINCE ABDALLAH'S FROM THE US. THIS WOULD, AS A MATTER  
OF COURTESY TO ABDALLAH, GIVE HIM TIME TO RETURN TO SAUDI  
ARABIA TO BE PRESENT AT THE ARRIVAL OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

7. THE APPARENT CONTRADICTION BETWEEN PRINCE FAHD'S  
INVITATION FOR SECDEF TO BE IN TAIF ON JULY 26  
AND SULTAN'S DESIRE THAT HE BE IN KHAMIS MUSHAYT  
ON THAT DATE WILL RESOLVE ITSELF IN THE COURSE

OF ARRANGING THE SCHEDULE WITH PRINCE SULTAN.

PORTER

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NNN

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